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UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination
Academic Session 2004/2005

March 2005

HET 224 - Style In Contemporary Literature In English

Duration: 3 hours

Please check that this paper consists of TWO pages of printed material before you begin the examination.

Answer any FOUR questions. All questions carry the same marks.

Do not repeat material/points used in any question. No marks will be awarded for repetition of points.

1. Would you agree with the view that 'where great diversity exists, the short story is the best vehicle for a picture of life'? Evaluate the above view with reference to what you would consider to be the merits of short stories studied in this course.
2. Choose any ONE of the following topics:
 - [a] Women as lesser beings;
 - [b] The alienated individual;
 - [c] The generation gap.

Then write a critical essay discussing and illustrating the topic in detail, with reference to and exemplification from EITHER one work specifically, OR generally, from the books studied in the course.

3. Would you agree with observation that the
"distinctive contribution of a regional literature to a world literature...may be to consist in giving 'a local habitation and a name' to themes that in the abstract are of ultimate concern to all humanity"? (J. K. Terry, 1984)

Discuss this statement with specific exemplification from works that you consider to be representative of a region.
4. Analyse any ONE of the following texts, and discuss its literary merits in the context of techniques and issues studied in this course:
 - [a] *Things Fall Apart*
 - [b] *The Serpent's Tooth*
 - [c] *The Return*
 - [d] *The Mimic Men*

5. Discuss how any ONE author uses plot and characterization to effectively communicate the theme (s) of any one work studied in this course.
6. Take any one theme that you think has been most evident in the texts that you have studied in this course, and discuss how different authors have portrayed that theme in their works.